

Allegheny Synod - ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
November 23, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Ann Ferry at 9:03am

Devotions were led by Joyce Long; an outpouring of gratitude at Thanksgiving.

Upon motion by Gary Gable, seconded by Tim Albright

- **SC23.11.01** - to adopt the agenda for today's meeting... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Andrea Paul, seconded by Pr. Marty Jo Irvin-Stellabotte

- **SC23.11.02** - to adopt the minutes of the September 2023 Synod Council meeting as presented... the motion is adopted

Treasurers Report

- Operational deficit of about \$17,000 thru the first 8-months
- Mission support is lagging by approximately \$40,000 compared to anticipated income
- The Lily Endowment Grant of \$1.25 million has been deposited into the investment portfolio... disbursements are planned over a 5-year period

The Lilly Grant: across 3 synods

- Some of the initial organizational details include the formation of a steering committee & hiring a program manager are upcoming.
- In December we will seat the steering committee... they will be responsible for hiring the program manager.

Upon motion by Pr. Nancy Hoover, seconded by Tim Albright

- **SC23.11.03** – that the sum of \$16,000 be distributed to those eligible seminarians & leaders identified by the Office of the Bishop, as per continuing resolution **S15.40.A18**... the motion is adopted

Paula Nihoff – has expressed an interest in serving as the Synod Treasurer. Paula was able to join us via zoom for a brief introductory meeting. Paula was the President/CEO of HealthCare First Credit Union for 33 years. She conveyed to the Council some of the details of her career, as well as her prior involvement with the Synod Finance Committee & the Investment Committee.

Upon motion by Andrea Paul, seconded by Joyce Long

- **SC23.11.04** - to appoint Paula Nihoff to a 4-year term as Treasurer of the Allegheny Synod, effective January 1, 2024... the motion is adopted

Leadership & Congregational Support/Development

Upon motion by Bishop Paula Schmitt, seconded by Pr. Ralph Hamer

- **SC23.11.05** – that the Rev. Kevin McNamara be granted Retired status on the rosters of the Allegheny Synod & the ELCA effective November 15, 2023... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Paula Schmitt, seconded by Pr. Amanda McCaffery

- **SC23.11.06**. – to affirm the call of Sue Ellen Spotts as shared Director of Evangelical Mission of the Allegheny Synod & the Upper Susquehanna Synod... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Paula Schmitt, seconded by Gary Gable

- **SC23.11.07** – to extend a call to the Rev. Kevin Shock, to serve as full-time Assistant to the Bishop of the Allegheny Synod, coterminous with the term of Bishop Paula Schmitt... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Paula Schmitt, seconded by Pr. Ralph Hamer

- **SC23.12.08** – the affirm the second vote of St. Paul, Buckstown to terminate their relationship with the ELCA... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Paula Schmitt, seconded by Tim Albright

- **SC23.11.09** - approve Portico Benefits Gold+ plan for all Rostered Ministers of the Allegheny Synod & the Synod Staff... the motion is adopted

The next Synod Council meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2024

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm by Vice President Ann Ferry

Synod Council members in attendance... 13 of 14

- Executive Committee (*1-ordained, 4-lay*)
 - Bishop Paula Schmitt - present
 - VP Ann Ferry - present
 - Secretary Dave Finney – present
 - Interim Treasurer Bill Layton – present
 - Gary Gable – present
- Council Members (*5-ordained, 4-lay*)
 - Timothy Albright - present
 - Pr. Ralph Hamer – present
 - Pr. Nancy Hoover - present
 - Pr. Rebecca Horn – present
 - Pr. Marty Jo Irvin-Stellabotte - present
 - Joyce Long – present
 - Pr. Amanda McCaffery - present
 - Andrea Paul – present
 - Michele Peese – absent
- Synod Staff
 - Assistant to the Bishop Pr. Kevin Shock – present
- Guests
 - Paula Nihoff – a candidate for Synod Treasurer joined our meeting via zoom @ 10am